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DATE: 12/18/09

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 18, 2009

**Contact: Lisa Mendelson, 202-777-3561**

**KENYA WELCOMES \$2.7 BILLION IN ASSISTANCE FROM UNITED STATES IN  
PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS**

NAIROBI - This week, the United States government pledged an additional \$2.7 billion to the Republic of Kenya to help fight HIV infection throughout the country under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The commitment now makes Kenya the largest partner of this program in the world. To date, under this plan, Kenya has received \$1.35 billion since 2004. Kenya has made progress in many areas including reducing AIDS-related deaths by 29 percent, assisting over 3.5 million children and pregnant women through counseling and testing, and treating over 300,000 people infected with HIV since September 30, 2008.

"The government of Kenya appreciates the United States' continuous support in the fight against this pandemic. The drop in AIDS-related deaths in Kenya proves the effectiveness of programs like these. This aid will continue to support the million-plus Kenyans who struggle with HIV/AIDS everyday and the thousands of healthcare workers who are dedicated to caring for and fighting this disease in Kenya," said H.E. Ambassador Peter Ogego.

Although AIDS-related deaths in Kenya have decreased, the disease still affects over a million people throughout the country. In addition to assisting with general education and counseling, the aid package will benefit 550,000 orphans and children. Specifically, it will provide them with additional disease prevention and testing including peripheral diseases like Tuberculosis.

With this commitment, it is anticipated that the United States government will increase its direct support for the fight against HIV/AIDS by a minimum of 10 percent annually - a commitment that will help the Kenyan government and organizations on the ground, USAID; the National AIDS Control Council (NACC); the National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Programme (NASCOP), fight the ongoing battle against this disease.

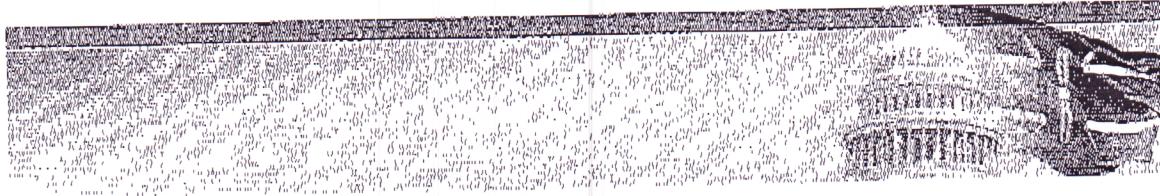
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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### ONE MILLION KENYANS RESPOND TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION

More than one million Kenyans have submitted suggestions to Kenya's draft Constitution, the Kenyan Committee of Experts has announced. The draft Constitution was completed in November and received wide support nationally and internationally. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called it "a major milestone."

The Kenyan people were given 30 days to submit changes of their own, a process which they did by mail, online, text messages and in person. The Committee now has 21 days to incorporate the opinions of the public into the final draft.

"No view from any segment of the Kenyan society will be given preferential treatment," said Committee of Experts Chairman Nzamba Kitonga. "The Committee will not be swayed or influenced by any extraneous factors other than the mandate conferred upon it by the statute in place."

Following the 21-day period, the Committee of Experts will send their updated draft to the Parliament Select Committee for its review. The Constitution will then be sent back to the Experts for revisions based on Parliament's suggestions. Upon this last adjustment, Parliament will hold a vote on whether to establish the Constitution as law. Attempts to provide a new constitution for Kenya go back more than two decades but took on added urgency following the post-election violence in 2008.

**Media Availability:** The Honorable Mutula Kilonzo is responsible for overseeing the constitutional reform process. As the Minister for Justice, Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, he is well-versed in Kenya's judicial and legislative system. He is available for media interviews regarding the draft Constitution.

*If interested in speaking with the Honorable Minister Kilonzo, please contact Ana Kolodzinski at [akolodzinski@clsdc.com](mailto:akolodzinski@clsdc.com) or 202-777-3518.*

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